

Families hurt by historically tough economic conditions joined Congressman and local service organizations at the “How Can We Help?” Summit.

February 27, 2010

PROSPECT PARK, PA – Today, Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-07) hosted his second “Working Families Resources Summit” at Interboro High School. The event featured a service fair that connected several hundred constituents with nearly 60 government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other sources of aid and assistance (complete list below). The exhibitors provided a variety of services including housing relief, employment, adult education, credit counseling, legal advice, elder and child care, health services, and more.

“Today’s focus is on making information and resources accessible to hardworking Americans as they fight through the second year of an outrageous recession brought about by greed and deregulation on Wall Street and the lack of accountability and regulatory oversight in Washington,” said Congressman Sestak. “Right now senior citizens, small business owners and students right out of college who are looking for a job face very tough odds. They have to deal with unemployment, underemployment, high costs of education, uncertain energy prices, and increases in already extraordinarily high insurance and health care costs. Millions of Americans are looking for work and untold numbers are denied health care due to pre-existing conditions. Many are unaware of the support that exists, whether it is in paying their mortgages, affording health insurance, reducing energy costs, or a host of other areas. This summit is designed to inform them and provide needed assistance.

“There is much more to be done in Washington as well. The Senate’s failure with the recent Jobs Bill, and the obstructionism of those who ‘just say no’ to health care reform is costing honest, hard-working middle class families and small businesses dearly each day. I call on all of my colleagues in Congress from both parties to set aside partisanship and ‘insider deals’ and offer the American people honest, workable solutions to this economic recession and our health care crisis.”

Today’s event is a component of Congressman Sestak’s constituent outreach program and is one of about 50 of its kind in the past 37 months. Since January 2007 he has consistently sought feedback from his constituents while affording them access to services, information, and organizations essential to their economic security. This event is specifically designed for those hardest hit by the economic recession and serves as part of a process to take the concerns of the Congressman’s constituents to Washington and work there to promote legislation and programs that will make ours a stronger community and country.

One of today’s participants, the Community Action Agency of Delaware County (CAADC), is partly responsible for the allocation of federal weatherization funds. This initiative to lower energy costs and keep people warm during the winter months represents an example of the type of program that the summit is designed to expand access to and that the Congressman is working to make more efficient to serve more people in need.

“Through the Economic Stimulus Bill, the Seventh Congressional District received \$21 million to improve the energy efficiency of low-income homes,” said Congressman Sestak. “I want to be sure that weatherization funds are going where they are most needed and that the work the taxpayers are paying for is of the highest quality. It is clear from our experience working with a widower and senior citizen in Lansdowne that there is room for better coordination between federal, state and county officials to make that program and the complementary LIHEAP initiative more effective. Given the extreme winter we are experiencing, I am proposing to amend the weatherization program policies to permit roof repairs to homes occupied by senior or disabled citizens who at present are ineligible for weatherization because their roofs are leaking. We should also look for ways to connect with programs that could cover roof repairs and have those operate in sync with organizations that provide weatherization so that we can best respond to the considerable need for energy assistance.

“There is often a lack of common sense and collaboration in government that wastes precious resources,” said the Congressman. “I am enthusiastic about working with every organization here today. We all know government has its limitations; but, when government listens to and works closely with talented, dedicated citizens and organizations throughout our community, there is absolutely no limit to what we can accomplish for the greater good. I thank every organization present today. It is an honor to collaborate with them for the benefits of our working families in the Seventh Congressional District.”

Participating Organizations:

Amedisys Home Health Services

Anderson Elder Law

Bernadine Center

Bureau of Consumer Protection

Catholic Social Services

Chase Homeownership Center

ChesPenn Health Services

Child Guidance Resource Centers

Children's Brain Tumor Foundation

Comfort Keepers

Community Action Agency of Delaware County

Community Transit of Delaware County, Inc.

Consumer Credit Counseling Services of Delaware Valley (CCVSDV)

Contact Greater Philadelphia

Crozer-Chester Medical Center

Delaware County Office of Services for the Aging

Delaware County Women Against Rape

Delaware County Interfaith Hospitality Network

Division of Geriatrics

Domestic Abuse Project

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

Fair Housing Council of Suburban Philadelphia (FHCSP)

GMAC Mortgage

Graduate! Philadelphia

Greater Philadelphia Coalition Against Hunger

IRS Taxpayer Advocate Service

JEVS Supports For Independence

Job Corps

Keller Williams Main Line

Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania

Med-Equip, Inc.

Mom's Loving Care

NAMI

PA Assistive Technology Foundation

PA Department of Education

Pa Department of Health - Delaware County State Health Center

Pa Office of Attorney General - Health Care Section

PathWaysPA

PECO, An Exelon Company

Pennsylvania Treasury Department

PHEAA

PHFA

Philabundance

Philadelphia Unemployment Project

Philadelphia VA Regional Office & Insurance Center (VAROIC)

Radiology and Cardiology

Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic

Social Security Administration

Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA)

Swarthmore Financial Services

The Salvation Army

The Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians

United States Census Bureau

University College, Widener University

Upper Darby Community Outreach Corporation

US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

WIC Program

Women's Resource Center

US Census Bureau

Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from

Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. Congress.

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